

**COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**  
**Proposed Resource Management Plan**  
**and Environmental Impact Statement**

**CHAPTER 2—Proposed Resource Management Plan**

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2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) for the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA). The agency-preferred alternative analyzed in the Draft Resource Management Plan was Alternative Three – the Adaptive Management Alternative. This alternative is the basis of the PRMP and includes only slight modifications based on internal review, cooperating agency collaboration and public comments. The PRMP, used for the long-range management and protection of the CCNCA, is chosen from a comprehensive compilation of alternatives.

2.2 Development of the Proposed Resource Management Plan

As outlined in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) *Land Use Planning Handbook* (H-1601-1), alternatives must “identify a range of reasonable combinations of resource uses and management practices.” The regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in Section 1502.4, Title 40, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) require that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives to a proposed action. The public scoping process, which officially began for the CCNCA in December 2001 with the publication of the BLM’s Notice of Intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP), has provided the BLM with a great deal of input into the development of both reasonable and practical management alternatives. Based on that input and internal input from BLM resource specialists; four alternatives, including a “no action” alternative required by planning regulations, were developed.

Further guidance provided through specific language within the enabling legislation precluded many actions that would have affected alternative development:

- The entire CCNCA is closed to all mineral development, including leasing, locatable mineral entry, and mineral material disposal.
- The RMP would allow continued management of grazing leases and permits in accordance with current BLM policy and the Wilderness Act.

- The RMP would recognize that neither the Conservation Area nor the Wilderness shall include any part of the Colorado River.

These limitations and the extensive collaboration process resulted in the four alternatives analyzed in detail. All four alternatives comply with state and federal regulations, laws, and standards, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Wilderness Act of 1964, Public Law 106-353, the CCNCA Planning Criteria (see Chapter 1), BLM best management practices (BMP), and standard mitigation. In addition, all alternatives include measures for achieving Colorado Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado (BLM 1996) (Appendix 1).

The four alternatives represented four directions that management of the CCNCA could take and remain consistent with the management objectives identified through the scoping process. Each alternative summarized below emphasized a different approach to the management of the area and incorporated a unique set of objectives.

*Alternative 1—Continuation of Existing Management:* This "No-Action Alternative" would maintain current management of the area as guided by the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-353), the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Wilderness Integrated Management Plan (1998), the Grand Junction Resource Area Resource Management Plan, the Interim Management Policy for BLM National Monuments and National Conservation Areas, and the Colorado State Director's Guidance for the CCNCA. All actions associated with the Alternative 1 implement requirements of the above policy and guidance documents.

*Alternative 2—Recreation Emphasis:* This alternative emphasized maximizing multiple-use, recreation opportunities while conserving and protecting traditional uses and protecting natural resources to the maximum extent possible. Objectives of this alternative include preserving and enhancing traditional recreation activities such as hiking, camping, mountain biking, and backpacking, and maintaining current land health and improving priority areas of concern. Using a higher percentage of non-native species as necessary to stabilize soils is a possibility.

*Alternative 3—Adaptive Management:* As the BLM and CCNCA Advisory Council preferred alternative, this alternative's emphasis is on maintaining the current level of experience and enjoyment of the area's recreational opportunities and unique characteristics while recognizing that increased future use would trigger the need for increased levels of management. Monitoring for land health and visitors' experiences would determine when adjustments to management would be required. Objectives for this

alternative include preserving the character of the area and enhancing traditional recreation, while maintaining land health and improving priority areas of concern.

*Alternative 4—Conservation Emphasis:* This alternative emphasized maximizing the conservation of natural resources in the CCNCA while still maintaining traditional uses and recreational opportunities to the greatest extent possible. Objectives include improving land health in all areas of concern, preserving the character of the area, and expanding education and interpretation opportunities in all areas.

None of the alternatives identified in the Draft RMP were determined to have the potential to result in significant adverse impacts or cause irretrievable damage to the resources. Resource management in Alternative 1 would not change from current policy. Alternative 2 offers the greatest potential for impacts to the human environment by providing for increased and enhanced recreational opportunities and user facilities. Alternative 4 would have the least potential for environmental impacts because it proposes fewer surface-disturbing activities. Alternative 3 tends to provide a mix of impacts within the range of those found in Alternatives 2 and 4. However, none of the actions proposed in Alternatives 2, 3 or 4 would be considered significant in context or intensity and none of the alternatives would require any mitigation efforts to reduce impact to an insignificant level. Taking no action would restrict and potentially prohibit the BLM from implementing management measures necessary for not only protecting the resource but also meeting the demands of increased recreation.

The full impact analysis is available in the Draft Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan. Appendix 5 contains the tables summarizing impacts for all alternatives identified in the Draft RMP.

### 2.3 Management Objectives

Through more than 100 community-based meetings and planning activities scheduled over a 14-month period, management objectives that would guide the BLM for the next 10 to 15 years were formulated for the CCNCA. The following are comprehensive management objectives, common to all four alternatives:

- Preserve and protect the nationally significant area for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
- Allow continued management of grazing leases and permits in accordance with current BLM policy and with the Wilderness Act.

- The BLM and the grazing permittees would work together to manage grazing for sustainability and conservation in accordance with land health guidelines and standards for rangeland health.
- Establish travel management goals and actions allowing motorized vehicle use only on roads and trails designated for motorized use.
- Expand education and interpretation opportunities in all areas.
- Limit all use to existing roads and trails.

The proposed RMP incorporates the requirements of the enabling legislation, previous RMP decisions and new issues that have emerged since the publication of the Ruby Canyon Integrated Resource Management Plan in 1998, which served as the basis of the PRMP.

## 2.4 The Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Proposed Resource Management Plan

### 2.4.1 Lands and Rights-of-Way

The BLM would continue to acquire, from willing sellers, private inholdings within the CCNCA boundaries as well as along the boundaries.

Rights-of-Way (ROW) proposals would be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis and would be subject to constraints, sensitive resource areas, and issues identified in the CCNCA plan and other applicable documents and policies.

Utility line proposals, from within the Interstate 70 (I-70) corridor to the Colorado River or in the upper Black Ridge road area, would be required to be located underground and along the edge of or within roadways, or within the railroad right-of-way. Additions or modifications to aboveground utilities would only be considered within the existing utility corridors where aboveground facilities presently exist. Underground utility proposals would also be considered in these existing corridors. ROWs would be excluded from the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness (BRCW) area.

All roads administered by the BLM would be maintained in their current condition, and no improvement would be permitted through ROW authorizations. Any new roads that could be authorized would be constructed to minimal widths and standards similar to

nearby existing “jeep roads.” Any such new roads could also be gated to prevent, or limit, public vehicle access.

Additional communication towers at the existing Rabbit Valley Communication Site would be considered if the proposed use was located within 250 feet (ft) of the existing cellular telephone tower, involved a minimal and unlighted tower structure (1.5 ft lattice with wand at top, under 60 ft in height), and was not obvious to a casual observer from the I-70 corridor. Minor additions or modifications of other existing communication sites (excluding the Black Ridge Site, which has an approved management plan that is consistent with CCNCA objections) would also be considered. In all cases, collocation on existing facilities would be preferred. No additional communication sites would be considered at other areas. The BLM reserves the right to develop minor communication facilities for administrative purposes.

I-70 and railroad maintenance or emergency repair would be coordinated with the BLM and actions taken to reasonably protect resource values. The BLM could also request the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to consider removing the requirement for the strobe light on the Upper Black Ridge Railroad Communication Site.

Mesa County and BLM staff would coordinate maintenance activities on Mesa County roads. In response to potential development on private inholdings, the BLM could request Mesa County consideration of land use permitting restrictions on private inholdings for protecting the overall landscape and land use character. Requested restrictions could include limiting land uses or subdivision of property, limiting any development to a portion of the private land, locating and designing developments to minimize adverse impacts to the landscape, limiting use of exterior lights, or providing for limited public access.

#### 2.4.2 Geology and Topography

The BLM would identify important geologic features for possible special management consideration while preserving and protecting the geologic resources.

#### 2.4.3 Soils

The BLM would adhere to BMP and exercise careful placement of proposed trails and facilities. To encourage the protection of soils, activities such as recreation, access and travel routes, and grazing

would be managed to minimize erosion, salinity and selenium yields, and compaction. A strong emphasis on minimum impact techniques, through CCNCA visitor education, would be extremely important if protection and conservation of the soil resource for future generations is to be realized.

#### 2.4.4 Minerals and Energy Resources

Subject to valid existing rights, all federal land within the CCNCA and the BRCW, and all land and interests in land acquired for the Conservation Area or the Wilderness by the United States are withdrawn from:

- 1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;
- 2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- 3) the operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws, and all amendments thereto.

Valid existing rights would be processed within specified or applicable time frames.

#### 2.4.5 Water Resources

##### 2.4.5.1 Surface Water

The BLM would manage all activity within the CCNCA to ensure that water quality standards are met, or exceeded, using BLM Land Health Standards (Appendix 1, Standard 5–Water Quality) as the water quality indicator.

All water sources, including both surface water and ground water sources, would be inventoried to determine exact location, flow rates/volumes, types of beneficial uses of water at the location, type of water development, condition of water development, and any sensitive species dependent on the water source.

The recreation, range management, and wildlife programs would identify the location and type of any water shortages that prevent them from meeting management objectives.

BLM would acquire water rights on all water sources within the CCNCA and Wilderness that BLM uses to meet management objectives. Water rights would be sought for

livestock, wildlife, and recreation on all water sources that support those uses.

The authorizing legislation specifies that when BLM acquires water rights, BLM would follow the procedural and substantive provisions of Colorado water law.

Any activity in the CCNCA and BRCW would incorporate mitigation into management actions to protect water resources. Measures designed to minimize erosion and water quality deterioration would continue to be required in site-specific plans for any activity requiring surface disturbance in the CCNCA. Measures to minimize erosion and water quality affects would be further analyzed in environmental assessments for any surface disturbing activities in the CCNCA per requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The BLM would work with the Grand Valley Selenium Task Force to address elevated selenium levels in Salt Creek and other entities to minimize sediment and salinity production within the CCNCA.

#### 2.4.5.2 Ground Water

The BLM would continue to manage to preserve and protect ground water resources, including springs, and would pursue completion of an inventory of springs. Inventoried springs in the CCNCA would not be developed but would continue to be used by hikers and wildlife, as well as to sustain associated riparian areas. The BLM would continue to utilize existing water wells for stock watering purposes.

All water sources, including both surface water and ground water sources, would be inventoried to determine exact location, flow rates/volumes, types of beneficial uses of water at the location, type of water development, condition of water development, and any sensitive species dependent on the water source.

The recreation, range management, and wildlife programs would identify the location and type of any water shortages that prevent them from meeting management objectives.

BLM would acquire water rights on all water sources within the CCNCA and Wilderness that BLM uses to meet management objectives. Water rights would be sought for livestock, wildlife, and recreation on all water sources that support those uses.

The authorizing legislation specifies that when BLM acquires water rights, BLM would follow the procedural and substantive provisions of Colorado water law.

#### 2.4.6 Climate and Air Quality

Activities and projects on BLM-managed lands would comply with applicable local, state, and federal air quality regulations. National Ambient Air Quality Standards would be met, or exceeded, for all activity occurring in the CCNCA. Mitigation to minimize air quality degradation would be incorporated into project proposals as appropriate.

#### 2.4.7 Noise

Public lands would be managed in accordance with Colorado NS 25-12-106.

#### 2.4.8 Vegetation

The BLM would attain, or maintain, DPC objectives determined in the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Integrated RMP and would maintain existing areas meeting land health standards (see Appendix 8). Vegetation restoration and reclamation projects would be implemented on those areas currently not meeting land health standards, in concert with other programs that would improve the land health on all priority areas, including the River Corridor, Rabbit Valley, Black Ridge, as well as on other sites that would benefit from treatment for various resources such as sage grouse, desert bighorn, and prairie dogs.

Special emphasis would be given to proper placement of roads and trails, along with rehabilitation and stabilization of existing roads and trails. Emphasis would also be placed on improving plant diversity, particularly in those areas dominated by cheatgrass or crested wheat grass, and in other priority areas. Reclamation and restoration could include the use of non-native plants and chemical treatment.

##### 2.4.8.1 Vegetation–Weed Management

The BLM would manage noxious weeds using an Integrated Weed Management (IWM) approach, while incorporating weed education information into CCNCA literature, web sites, and key entry points into the CCNCA. The BLM's Partners Against Weeds (PAWs) action plan is a comprehensive strategy providing guidance for preventing and controlling the spread of noxious weeds. Goals of the PAWs plan are prevention and detection, education and awareness, inventory, planning, Integrated Weed Management, monitoring and evaluation, and research and technology transfer. PAWs and additional guidance such as the Certified Weed-Free Forage Program are integral to the CCNCA weed management program.

There would also be extensive weed inventory and treatment prior to any facility construction, e.g. eliminating weeds before a designated river campsite is constructed.

The BLM would conduct an annual inventory of purple loosestrife and Hoary Cress within the River Corridor, conduct a 3-year inventory cycle for Wilderness, as well as a 5-year inventory for the remaining acreage in the CCNCA.

#### Tamarisk

The BLM would manage tamarisk around spring sites in the Wilderness, releasing bio agents, if approved, for large-scale reduction in extensive stands. Tamarisk would also be managed at select sites in the River Corridor.

#### Purple Loosestrife

The BLM would conduct an annual inventory and eradication trips from Loma to Westwater (Utah).

#### Russian Knapweed

The BLM would continue eradication efforts from Mee Corner to Mee Canyon, along the south bank of the Colorado River. It would also attempt eradication of Russian knapweed on Machinery Bottom and continue Wilderness treatments of Russian knapweed and Canada thistle until completely eradicated.

### Hoary Cress (Whitetop)

The BLM would conduct annual inventory and eradication trips from Loma to Westwater to control Hoary Cress and would continue treatment of infestations at Salt Creek and I-70.

#### 2.4.9 Forestry

The practice of taking woodland products within the CCNCA would be discontinued. The option of allowing some cutting to facilitate clearing trees for trails, recreation projects, land health initiatives, and wildlife projects should be considered.

#### 2.4.10 Wildlife, Fish and Aquatic Species

The BLM would facilitate Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) population management plans and develop basic informational facilities for the Rabbit Valley Watchable Wildlife Site. The features making Rabbit Valley, north and south of I-70, a designated State Important Bird Area would be protected.

A detailed inventory of fish and wildlife would continue to be developed, and the CCNCA would be managed to maintain the existing species. The BLM, in cooperation with the Colorado National Monument whenever feasible, would work with appropriate wildlife management agencies, including CDOW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to monitor the fish and wildlife and provide information to agency management for actively responding when an impact threshold has been approached. Thresholds would be defined for each species to the extent of budget constraints. However, any unanticipated discovery could be evaluated for management action.

#### 2.4.11 Special Status Species

In fulfilling all requirements under the Endangered Species Act, as well as BLM Policy Manual 6840, the BLM would meet habitat obligations for the six listed and two candidate species, while continuing to protect 25 BLM-listed sensitive species within the CCNCA. Three species listed under the state endangered species statute would also come under this umbrella. A detailed inventory of Special Status Species would continue to be developed.

Policies of a narrow tolerance for toxicants and pesticides, protection of peregrine eyries, and openness to restoring native species populations would be continued. Habitat improvements for special status species would be implemented and may include water developments, food and cover plot plantings, re-introductions, prairie dog den insecticide dusting, backwater development for native fish, and artificial dens (kit foxes, burrowing owls).

Historic and potential habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse will be managed to attract and support this species. A strategic plan for managing sage grouse will be drafted by the CDOW and the BLM as outlined in the conservation plan prepared by the Pinyon Mesa Gunnison Sage-grouse Working Group (Graham 2000). It will cover the public land on Pinyon Mesa, Glade Park and the CCNCA. This plan will incorporate guidance from the Gunnison Sage-grouse Range wide Conservation Plan.

The BLM, in cooperation with the Colorado National Monument whenever feasible, would work with appropriate wildlife management agencies, including CDOW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to monitor the Special Status Species and provide information to agency management for actively responding when an impact threshold has been approached. These thresholds will be defined for each species. Nonetheless, unanticipated conditions would also be evaluated for management action.

#### 2.4.12 Rangeland

Grazing use would be in accordance with the Taylor Grazing Act, FLPMA, Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA), 43 CFR 100 and 4180, the Wilderness Act, grazing permits, and BLM Policy.

Current livestock management would be maintained and changes made if monitoring indicates downward trends or a failure to meet standards. Intensive grazing management plans (Allotment Management Plan) would be established for allotments where additional management is deemed necessary. Any grazing permit that is relinquished or canceled would be evaluated for future allocation and level of use.

Additional range improvements would be utilized to improve grazing management in accordance with grazing management plans. Vegetation studies and experiments would be maintained and rehabilitation efforts appropriate for the area would be applied.

Jones Canyon would be added to current exclusions on livestock grazing in Mee, Knowles, and Rattlesnake Canyons to protect riparian values. Other canyons would be monitored to determine if additional exclusions might be necessary in the future. The Colorado River allotment would remain in an unallotted status to protect resources.

Domestic sheep use would be excluded in the Lower Bench and Colorado Ridge allotments and north of Black Ridge via existing agreements. Sheep grazing north of the river would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. Domestic sheep use managed by Utah within the CCNCA would be evaluated when the permit is transferred.

The public would be educated on livestock grazing and its relationship to the environment and natural cycles.

#### 2.4.13 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources would be managed according to existing legislation, regulations, Executive Orders, and BLM policy. Measures to protect and manage cultural resources would be required in all land use activity plans, including those associated with recreation management and off-highway vehicle (OHV) activities. Measures would be designed in conjunction with appropriate consulting parties as defined by the BLM National Programmatic Agreement, Colorado State Protocol, and BLM Manual (8100 series) addressing cultural resource management.

Section 106 of the NHPA would be completed for federally funded or licensed undertakings prior to all surface-disturbing or other activities that could affect cultural resources. Identifying cultural resources and areas of religious and cultural importance that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and assigning to the appropriate cultural resource use allocation would occur. Mitigation should be completed on historic properties that are adversely affected by the undertaking. Preservation of resources in place is the preferred mitigation strategy.

Proposed activities would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented. Cultural resource condition would be monitored during implementation.

Develop and implement a base-level proactive cultural resource program required under Section 110 of the NHPA. A reasonable amount of outreach/customer service work, Native American consultation, interpretation and environmental education, cultural resource inventories, data recovery and recordation efforts, restoration and protection of "at-risk" site efforts, and systematic monitoring of cultural sites treatments are to be completed annually. The level of proactive cultural resource program work would be determined annually within constraints of available funds and staff however, additional funding to conduct at least 500 acres of Class III inventory per year within the CCNCA would be pursued annually.

#### 2.4.14 Paleontological Resources

Information on paleontological resources would continue to be gathered. A valid BLM Paleontological Resources Use Permit would be required for collection of all vertebrate and other scientifically important fossils. Within the BRCW, BLM scientific and educational surface collecting permits would allow surface collecting of up to a 1-meter by 1-meter square to a 20-inch depth per site. Any scientific collection that would disturb any area greater than that would require that an Environmental Assessment (EA) be done before such disturbance and/or collecting is permitted. Collection and removal would be done by small one-handed tools only.

The entire CCNCA would be closed to all recreational collecting of rocks, minerals, and fossils. No archeological materials such as chipped rocks, arrowheads, or other prehistoric or historic artifacts could be collected.

#### 2.4.15 Recreation (all maps are at end of Chapter 2)

##### 2.4.15.1 Planning Decisions

Most of the proposed actions listed in this section represent a public consensus on desired future conditions reached through extensive collaboration during the planning process. Some are land use plan (LUP) decisions, some are activity-level decisions (implementation decisions). In the following description, LUP decisions are denoted with an (**L**) and implementation decisions are denoted by an (**I**).

Key to the CCNCA RMP are the LUP decisions that will help achieve management goals and objectives, provide general management policy, describe desired future conditions and guide future actions. Some decisions made during the planning process and identified within this RMP are implementation decisions that generally represent the BLM's final approval for a specific management action.

A decision is most likely a LUP decision if it guides future actions and subsequent decision-making and provides general management policy. LUP decisions are subject to protest to the BLM Director.

A decision is most likely an implementation decision if it represents BLM's final approval for a specific management action, activity, or use. These types of decisions require site-specific planning and NEPA analysis. Unlike LUP decisions, implementation decisions are not subject to protest under the planning regulations. Instead, implementation decisions are subject to various administrative remedies, primarily appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). Specific program regulations may describe other administrative review processes. In cases where implementation decisions are made as part of an RMP planning process, the implementation decisions are still subject to the appeals process or other administrative review as prescribed by program regulations since they are not part of the RMP and are not LUP decisions.

It is important to note that, for each of these proposed actions that follow, site-specific analysis would be necessary to determine if further analysis required by NEPA is necessary for any on-the-ground activity prior to any irretrievable commitment of resources or ground disturbing activity.

#### 2.4.15.2 Recreation – Common to the CCNCA

##### General Management:

(L) Recreation in the CCNCA will be managed for beneficial outcomes. Ten discrete, recreation management units have been identified for the CCNCA (Figure 2-5) and benefits-based management objectives have been written for each of these sub-zones. Each sub-zone exhibits a unique set of recreation opportunities (i.e.,

consisting of activities, experiences, and benefits), use patterns, and management issues and actions that combine to facilitate the production of a distinctive recreation outcome.

**(L)** To support adaptive management of the CCNCA, support and approval for a mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be sought for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends, to the BLM and other affected parties.

**(L)** During the life of the proposed CCNCA RMP, it can be anticipated that an activity not addressed or analyzed within this plan could become popular enough to result in adverse social and physical impacts. Examples could include, but are not limited to, geocaching, hovercrafting, and land sailing. If monitoring and evaluation determine that the activity is having a detrimental impact, the BLM reserves the right to prohibit that use, or to require that the user apply for a special recreation permit until the potential impacts are adequately analyzed and appropriate areas to accommodate the activities are identified.

#### Target Shooting:

**(L)** There would be no discharging of any projectile, by means of (including but not limited to) firearms, bows, crossbows, and paintball guns with the exception of official law enforcement activities, certain military operations, and hunting activities in conformance with existing laws and regulations.

#### Hunting:

**(L)** Hunting would be allowed in conformance with CDOW laws and regulations.

#### Travel Management:

**(L)** All motorized and mechanized use would be limited to designated roads and trails.

**(L)** The BLM would restore closed roads having no administrative benefit and not included in range allotment agreements.

**(L)** All dirt roads to be maintained for public access would be designated, and non-designated roads would be closed.

**(I)** As shown on Figure 2-2 (No. 7) some routes north of I-70 would be closed.

**(I)** As a way to mitigate impacts, trails would be modified as needed.

(I) In general, locating trails near known paleontological or cultural sites would be avoided.

Interpretation/Education:

(L) A comprehensive “Interpretive Plan” for the CCNCA considering all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach would be developed.

(L) The BLM would identify partners and develop Friends organizations to assist with outreach and education. The BLM would also strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public in maintaining the resources through partnerships, adopt-an-area programs, and special events.

Facilities:

(L) All parking facilities would be contained to prevent gradual encroachment into the surrounding area.

2.4.15.3 Mack Ridge Planning Zone (Figure 2-1)

Trail Proposals: Designated uses for existing trails in the Mack Ridge Zone would be as follows:

(L) Horsethief Loop, Kokopelli’s Trail (within the Mack Ridge area), Lion’s Loop, Mary’s Loop, Steve’s Loop, Rustler’s Loop, and Troy’s Loop—hiking, equestrian and mountain bikes.

(L) Mack Ridge Trail—hiking and mountain biking to the first intersection with the remainder of the trail allowing equestrian use.

(L) Moore Fun Trail—hiking and mountain biking only.

New trail proposals include the following (Refer to Figure 2-1 for the following trail proposals.)

(I) Construct trail segment C to replace the end of the dirt road presently used as part of Steve’s Loop.

(I) Equestrian use would be limited to designated trails only.

(I) Trail A would be designated utilizing dirt roads and approximately ½-mile of new construction (single track).

(I) Segment E would be constructed to connect trail segment A and the Mary’s Loop Trail.

(I) Construction of a trail running parallel along the south side of the frontage (Hawkeye) road would be considered as a future option if traffic on the frontage road becomes a safety concern.

- (I) Connector J would be constructed between the southern-most point of the Troy Built Trail and the end of the Mack Ridge single-track trail.
- (I) Trail F would be constructed connecting the Mack Ridge Trail to the Mack Ridge Trailhead.
- (I) Segment D connecting segment F to the Mary's Loop access from the frontage road would also be considered, allowing an alternative Mack Ridge Trail route for equestrians.
- (I) Segment G would be constructed from the frontage road to the gated dirt road.

*Dirt Road Proposals:*

- (L) Motorized use would be restricted to the road portion of Lion's Loop to, and including access out to, the Overlook, county roads, and designated parking areas.
- (L) A number of roads, or segments of roads, would be closed and restored. This includes the road providing the same access as trail segment G, as well as the end of the road on Steve's Loop providing the same access as segment C. The short, dead-end segment heading south from Hawkeye Road would also be closed and restored, as would the segment adjacent to the dirt road connecting the county road to the west end of trail proposal A.
- (I) Roads would be gated or motorized barriers placed at 9 locations as shown on Figure 2-2.

*Facilities and Camping:*

- (L) The Mack Ridge area would be designated for day-use only, with fires, camping and nighttime use prohibited. Exceptions to this may be allowed only under special circumstances and with the approval of the CCNCA or Grand Junction Field Office manager.
- (L) There would be no camping facilities and no dispersed camping within the Mack Ridge Zone. Restrooms would be provided at high-use parking areas.

*Permit Program:*

- (L) Tour companies could not have more than a total of 15 riders (counting clients and guides) on the Mack Ridge trail system at any one time.
- (L) Commercial equestrian guide permits would not be issued for the Mack Ridge area.
- (I) When possible, large events in January and February would be avoided to reduce stress to livestock (calving

season), and competitive events would be limited to hiking and running events.

**(I)** Full-time commercial mountain bike permits would be limited to 4 at any one time. Equestrian events would be limited to weekdays. Events with more than 50 participants would be limited to one event per month, plus two additional (14 maximum per year) but no more than two in any one month.

**Interpretation/Education:**

**(I)** Trailhead signs would be provided reflecting information regarding challenge level and trail length. The trailhead sign at Horsethief Bench should recommend directional travel for mountain bikes (clockwise) and equestrians (counter-clockwise). If warranted directional travel would be implemented throughout the Mack Ridge trail loop system.

2.4.15.4 Rabbit Valley Planning Zone  
(Refer to Figure 2-2, specific actions are numbered.)

**Trail Proposals:**

**(L)** All motorized and mechanized use would be limited to designated roads and trails, while The Trail Through Time, McDonald Creek Trail, and the Rabbit's Ear Trail are all designated for hiking only.

**(L)** Wild Horse Mesa would be designated as no motorized or mechanized use ( #10), and if the Joufflas Property were to be acquired, existing routes on Wild Horse Mesa would be designated as hiking and equestrian use only (#10).

**(L)** The trail running parallel to and south of I-70 would also be designated for hiking and equestrian use (#22).

**(I)** A single-track trail system would be developed in the Harley Dome vicinity to provide connectivity from western Rabbit Valley to the Utah trail system (#9).

**(I)** Trail No. 2 would be relocated off the valley floor to the escarpment west of the main entrance (#11).

**(I)** Trail No. 4 would be connected to Trail No. 3 along the upper escarpment and Trail No. 3 would be relocated to the opposite side of the drainage (#12 and 13).

**(I)** Dead-end routes protruding south from the frontage road east of the main entrance would be closed if they have no destination and provide no benefit (#14).

**(I)** Trail Nos. 4 and 5 would be relocated to the valley floor and the dry wash running east-west in the same area (#15).

(I) A single-track, multiple use route (#16) would be designated that begins west of the Trail Through Time at the stock pond and continues north and west across the rim, dropping into the wash and continuing to the state line.

(I) The end of the Rabbit's Ear Trail would be extended to create a designated loop trail on top of the mesa (#17).

Dirt Road Proposals:

(I) If feasible, a looped trail would be provided for motorized use to approach the river, however, a ¼-mile river buffer would be maintained and vehicle access along the shore vicinity would be prevented.

Camping:

(I) Camping in the Rabbit Valley Zone would be limited to no more than seven consecutive nights, and portable toilets are mandatory for overnight, dispersed use. If the Joufflas property south of I-70 were to be acquired, a formal campground would be constructed on that property (Figure 2-2, #23).

(I) Dispersed camping sites would not be designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts.

(I) Fire pans or fuel stoves would be required and woodcutting would be prohibited.

Facilities:

(L) The BLM Grand Junction Field Office would coordinate with BLM Moab (Utah) in developing and maintaining management consistency along the common state boundary shared by Rabbit Valley and Utah Rims.

(I) A large area for a recreational park and events (# 5) would be developed and designated. Developing and designating a smaller event site at a location to be determined would also be considered.

(I) A site plan would be developed, considering off-loading requirements for both horses and OHVs, for the vicinity of the Rabbit Valley primary entrance south of I-70 (exit 2).

(I) Surfaces at parking areas, trailheads, and group campsites would be hardened by means other than paving.

#### 2.4.15.5 River Corridor Zone (Figure 2-3)

Camping:

(L) No camping would be allowed on Doggone Island.

(L) All fires in this planning zone must be contained in a fire pan, whether visitor access is via the river or land, or the visit is a single day or multiple days.

Trail Proposals:

(L) Group size would be limited to 25 individuals within the first two miles south of the Colorado River.

Camping:

(L) The current voluntary campsite reservation system at Loma Boat Launch would be continued, with selected campsites identified on a map (Figure 2-3) but not at the sites themselves.

(L) Fire pans or propane heaters would be required year-round for overnight use and would include day users from November 1 through April 30.

(L) Portable toilets would be required for all river users year-round, including users accessing the River Corridor from land.

(L) Activity, including camping and trail construction, will be restricted within one-half mile of known bald eagle nesting sites along the Colorado River corridor from November 15 through July 30. If necessary this would be extended beyond seasonal to a year-round restriction.

(I) There would be no cutting of standing vegetation.

2.4.15.6 Wilderness Planning Zone (Figure 2-4)

Trail Proposals:

(L) Motorized and mechanized use is not allowed within BRCW, except for administrative use and search and rescue in accordance with current Memorandums of Understanding (MOU).

(L) Group size would be limited to 25 individuals within the first two miles south of the Colorado River and to 12 individuals elsewhere in the Wilderness.

(L) Designated trails within the Wilderness are available for hiking and equestrian use, although some of the trails are not traversable by horse. Portions of the designated trails in the Wilderness Zone fall outside of the Wilderness boundary, they are still limited to hiking and equestrian use. Designated trails include the Rattlesnake Arches Trail; Mee Canyon Trail; Knowles Canyon Trail; Jones Canyon Trail; and the Pollock Bench Trails System, which includes Flume Canyon (partially outside of the

Wilderness) and the Devils Canyon Trails System, which includes Kodel's Canyon (partially outside the Wilderness).

**(L)** The Dinosaur Hill Trail is outside of the Wilderness boundary and is for hiking only.

**(I)** A hiking and equestrian trail, heading north from the Jones Canyon Trailhead, would be developed if needed for mitigating impacts.

**(I)** An alternate Mee Canyon Trailhead would be designated at the intersection of the upper and lower Black Ridge roads.

**(I)** Hiking and equestrian use would be allowed in the vicinity of Opal Hill.

**(I)** The BLM would work with the Colorado National Monument (COLM) on identifying trail connections and would inform the public at trailheads that leashes are required for dogs on these trails.

#### **Dirt Road Proposals:**

**(L)** The annual opening date of the Upper Black Ridge Access Road will be moved from April 15 to the Saturday of Easter weekend, if weather and road conditions permit, or as soon after Easter as possible based on safety conditions. Closure of the road would occur on August 15.

**(L)** Motorized vehicle use on the lower Black Ridge road, from August 15 to February 15 only, would be allowed.

**(L)** The acquired "Gore Parcel" (Figure 2-4) would be closed to motorized/mechanized access, except as needed for administrative use and allotment agreements. The dirt road, west of the gate on BS Road, is closed to motorized/mechanized access except as needed for administrative use and allotment agreements.

**(I)** Spot graveling would be allowed as needed for maintenance of BS Road.

**(I)** Spur Roads (Figure 2-4) A, B, C, F, G, H, and I would be designated and contained to prevent lengthening. Spurs D and E would be closed and rehabilitated. An area for horse trailer parking would be developed off the end of Spur C.

**(I)** The maintenance levels would remain at the current standard for both the lower Black Ridge and Rattlesnake Arches access roads.

**(I)** A parking area would be created at the sagebrush flats on lower Black Ridge road, just before the intersection with the upper Black Ridge road.

*Camping:*

**(L)** The Rattlesnake Arches access road and trailhead would be designated as a no camping, no campfires area, as would the vicinity within ¼ mile of the Rattlesnake Arches Loop Trail, including the Arches.

**(L)** Historical camping spots, along the upper and lower Black Ridge roads, would be designated, and dispersed camping would be limited to designated sites only.

**(L)** The Pollock Canyon, Devils Canyon and Kodel's Canyon trail system, including trailheads, would be designated for day-use only, with fires, camping and nighttime use prohibited, from the CCNCA boundary to the Wilderness boundary.

**(I)** Dispersed camping south of the Wilderness boundary would be limited to designated sites, allowed at the ends of spur roads A, B, C, F, G, H, and I along BS Road (Figure 2-4). Additional dispersed camping sites would be designated along BS Road from the Knowles Canyon Trailhead to the Jones Canyon Trailhead.

**(I)** If future demand or resource impacts dictate the need for a campground outside the southern boundary of the Wilderness, the location should be at the triangle where the upper Black Ridge road and the Mee Canyon access road intersect (if outside of the wilderness boundary) or at the sagebrush flat on the lower Black Ridge road just before the intersection with the upper Black Ridge road.

**(I)** Cutting of dead or live standing vegetation for firewood inside the Wilderness boundary is not allowed.

**(I)** Campers would be required to have portable toilets and fire pans (or fuel stoves).

**(I)** Woodcutting or gathering south of the Wilderness boundary would be limited to areas where chaining has occurred.

*Facilities:*

**(I)** Restrooms would be constructed at various designated Wilderness trailheads only as the need arises.

**(I)** Parking would be allowed and the "turnaround" improved at the end of the Rattlesnake Arches access road, but the area would be contained to prevent encroachment.

**(I)** Additional parking areas would be created along the Rattlesnake Arches road, designed for turnarounds, and contained to prevent encroachment.

*(I)* The Knowles Canyon Trailhead would be moved to Road F and expanded to accommodate additional parking.

*(I)* The Kings View access road (Mesa County I.3 Road) would have no Wilderness access trailheads beyond the Pollock Bench Trailhead.

*(I)* Parking would be allowed at the flat rock surface area on the south side of BS Road to the southwest of the Knowles Canyon Trailhead, while parking along the Rattlesnake Arches access road would only be allowed at designated locations.

*(I)* All fences that no longer have a purpose would be removed.

*(I)* When dog waste in high-use areas becomes a problem, methods of controlling it would be developed.

*Interpretation/Education:*

*(L)* Current posted visitor information regarding road conditions and closures, along with user guidelines for the upper and lower Black Ridge roads, would be maintained. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) use would be directed to the Rabbit Valley Zone as a way to discourage use outside the upper Wilderness vicinity. Educational material should include information regarding private property and the intended uses of various parking facilities in the Devils Canyon/Pollock Canyon Trails System.

BLM would collaborate with the FAA in developing appropriate flight restrictions over the CCNCA and would request that the CCNCA and its advisory restrictions be included on the National Aeronautical Charts.

*Permits:*

No Special Recreation Permits would be granted for air tours over the CCNCA.

## 2.4.16 Benefits Based Management for Recreation

### 2.4.16.1 Introduction

Managing for beneficial outcomes consisting of experiences and other quality of life benefits requires shifting the focus of recreation management beyond facility developments, management controls, and providing programs and services. These projects and programs, while important, are only the means to important ends, value-added experiences and benefits.

The biggest difference between managing projects and administrative actions for activities and managing for experiences and benefits is that management objectives now target specific experiences and beneficial outcomes for those activities instead of project developments and resource protection. These benefits-based management objectives have been written for the ten sub-zones identified for CCNCA (Figure 2-5). The specific experience and benefit outcomes targeted by management objectives were determined by considering the extensive public input given during the planning process revealing the preferences of both visitors and resident customers, the capacity of each recreation management unit to produce desired recreation opportunities, the availability of other similar opportunities within the immediate market area, and management constraints for the CCNCA.

Opportunities for the attainment of desired experiences and benefits targeted above are produced through a combination of recreation setting character conditions and corresponding management actions.

Because setting character is in turn determined by those actions, it is the next logical step in planning for recreation. Three broad recreation setting categories are mapped for the CCNCA, each affecting the production of opportunities for experiences and benefits: the *physical* character of the land and facilities (Figure 2-6), *social* interactions and contact with others (Figure 2-7), and the *administrative* mix of services and controls provided (Figure 2-8).

The character of any recreation setting may be objectively defined along a continuum ranging from primitive to urban in terms of variation of its component physical, social, and administrative attributes. Collectively, these attributes define the character of any recreation setting. Setting character is directly influenced and determined by the management, marketing, and administrative actions of BLM and other recreation-tourism providers. Those actions and the resulting setting character, also affect and actually determine the kinds of recreation opportunities being produced.

There are three broad recreation settings categories and a range of six natural resource classifications are used within the settings. The settings include:

Physical – considers the resources and facilities

Social – looks at visitor use

Administrative – management controls and services

The classifications further define the settings within a range of “urban” to “primitive,” although there are no areas within CCNCA that fall under the urban classification. A brief description of the classification is as follows:

Rural – Includes a substantially modified landscape with visitors dispersed throughout and a prominent level of agency presence and regulation.

Front Country – The landscape is partially modified with visitors prevalent and agency personnel periodically available. Rules and information are clearly posted.

Middle Country – The landscape is natural in appearance with some modifications not highly noticeable. Visitors will encounter other groups utilizing the area, but agency presence is random. Information and signing are present.

Back Country – The landscape is more natural and the limited improvements tend to blend with the environment. Access does not include motorized vehicles and signing and agency presence is scarce.

Primitive – The landscape is relatively undisturbed with few signs of human presence. Very few encounters with other visitors occur. Regulations and information will normally be posted prior to entering this zone and agency presence is very rare.

#### 2.4.16.2 Recreation Management Zones

The following tables (Figures 2-9 through 2-18) summarize the components of Benefits Based Management for the ten recreation sub-zones in the CCCNA, including management objectives, recreation opportunities, targeted experiences, desired benefits, proposed management and marketing opportunities to enhance achievement of desired outcomes and monitoring actions. Because desired future conditions, visitor benefits and preferred experiences were integrated into the collaboration process, the recommendations reached through community consensus were easily incorporated into management for beneficial outcomes format used in the tables. The tables provide a concise summary that explain the what, where, when and, most importantly, the why of recreation planning in the CCNCA. Management for beneficial outcomes is further discussed in Appendix 4. Also included are the natural resource setting worksheets developed for each of the following recreation sub-zones in the CCNCA (Appendix 4):

- Zone 1: Rabbits Ear/Wildhorse Mesa/McDonald Creek
- Zone 2: Rabbit Valley Motorized Area
- Zone 3: Trail Through Time/ Dinosaur Hill/ Fruita Paleo Area
- Zone 4: High North
- Zone 5: Mack Ridge
- Zone 6: Colorado River Corridor
- Zone 7: Black Ridge Canyons West
- Zone 8: Black Ridge East
- Zone 9: Urban - Wilderness Interface
- Zone 10: Rattlesnake Arches - Mee Canyon Access

Figure 2-9

RABBITS EAR/WILDHORSE MESA/MCDONALD CREEK (Zone 1)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Back Country Muscle-Powered Exercise for Scenic and Cultural Appreciation</u> recreation, providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Back Country Hiking</li><li>• Horseback Riding (McDonald/ Wildhorse only)</li><li>• Rock Art Viewing (McDonald/ Wildhorse only)</li></ul>	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enjoying easy access to diverse back country recreation</li><li>• Escaping everyday responsibilities for awhile</li><li>• Savoring canyon, river, and rock-art aesthetics</li><li>• Feeling good about solitude and being isolated</li><li>• Enjoying being able to discover and learn about earlier cultures</li></ul>	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved self reliance</li><li>• Improved physical fitness</li><li>• Enhanced sense of freedom in being able to get to this special place</li><li>• Restored mind from unwanted stress</li><li>• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>• Improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence</li><li>• Greater sense of overall wellness</li><li>• Enhanced cultural resource stewardship ethic</li></ul> <p><u>Household &amp; Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved quality of life</li><li>• Greater household awareness of and appreciation of our cultural heritage</li><li>• Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li></ul> <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased work productivity</li><li>• Reduced health maintenance costs</li></ul> <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduced looting and vandalism of prehistoric sites</li><li>• Increased stewardship and protection of natural resources</li></ul>

Figure 2-9 (cont'd)

RABBITS EAR/WILDHORSE MESA/MCDONALD CREEK (Zone 1)		
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primarily backcountry and middle country with a section of front country due to an improved road for access. In general the area is natural in appearance and non-roaded</li> </ul>	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group size up to 12</li> <li>Expect 15–29 encounters per day</li> </ul>	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brochures are available for information and opportunities</li> <li>Agency presence which decreases as remoteness increases</li> <li>Mostly non-motorized/non-mechanized other than access road (Kokopelli's Trail)</li> </ul>
Management and Marketing Actions		
<b>Management Actions:</b> <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore closed roads that provide no administrative benefit and are not included in range allotment agreements.</li> <li>Modify roads and trails as needed to mitigate impacts.</li> <li>Rehab non-designated trails and trails that are closed unless there is a potential future use</li> <li>Close dead-end spurs that lateral south from the frontage road if no purpose is identified (#14 on map)</li> <li>Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment</li> <li>Continue the existing route that extends the end of the Rabbit's Ear Trail to create a designated loop trail on top of mesa (#17 on map)</li> <li>Harden surfaces at parking areas, trailheads, and campsites only when needed to prevent resource impacts.</li> </ul>		<b>Marketing Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach</li> <li>Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help maintain resources through partnerships, adoption programs, special events and/or a "friends group."</li> <li>Develop opportunities to maintain resources through inform/educate public about cultural resources</li> <li>Identify partners and develop "Friends" group to assist BLM in outreach and education</li> </ul>

Figure 2-9 (cont'd)

RABBITS EAR/WILDHORSE MESA/MCDONALD CREEK (Zone 1)	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
<p><b>Administrative Actions:</b></p> <p><u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All motorized/mechanized use is limited to existing trails and roads.</li> <li>• Rabbit's Ear Trail is designated for hiking only.</li> <li>• McDonald Creek Trail is designated for hiking only.</li> <li>• Wildhorse Mesa is designated as "no motorized/mechanized use"</li> <li>• Designate &amp; maintain all dirt roads for public access and close non-designated roads.</li> <li>• Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards</li> <li>• Equestrian use limited to designated trails only</li> <li>• Avoid locating trails near known paleo/cultural sites except where specifically intended for interpretation</li> </ul> <p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to no more than 7 consecutive nights</li> <li>• Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use</li> <li>• All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings)</li> <li>• No wood cutting</li> <li>• Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Shooting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)</li> </ul> <p><u>Hunting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations</li> </ul> <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas</li> <li>• Dogs under voice control elsewhere</li> </ul> <p><u>Permits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2</li> </ul> <p><u>Visual Resources Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class II southern portion</li> <li>• Class III northern portion near I-70 corridor</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assure objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained</li> <li>• Monitor implemented actions and evaluate</li> <li>• A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.</li> </ul>

Figure 2-10

RABBIT VALLEY MOTORIZED AREA (Zone 2)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Sustainable scenic, diverse motorized and mechanized play area for the Grand Valley</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Motorcycle</li><li>ATV</li><li>Mountain bike riding</li><li>Camping</li></ul>	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enjoying frequent exercise</li><li>Access to a range of physical challenge</li><li>Escaping everyday responsibilities for a while</li><li>Savoring canyon-country aesthetics</li><li>Enjoying easy access to diverse recreation opportunities.</li><li>Developing skills, abilities and self-confidence</li></ul>	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved physical fitness</li><li>Better health maintenance</li><li>Restored mind from unwanted stress</li><li>Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>Improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence</li><li>Greater environmental awareness and sensitivity</li><li>More well-informed and responsible visitors</li></ul> <p><u>Household &amp; Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li></ul> <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability</li></ul> <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased resource stewardship and protection by communities</li></ul>
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Middle and front country with rural character along the north portion of this zone, due the proximity of the I-70 corridor. Mostly natural in appearance, with a number of rustic facilities including trails, restrooms, dispersed campsites and signage.</li></ul>	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Group size up to 45</li><li>Could have 30-35 encounters per day beyond encounters in staging or camping areas</li></ul>	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Brochures are available for information and opportunities</li><li>Agency personnel are periodically available</li><li>Rules are clearly posted and use may be temporarily restricted due to permitted events or resource concerns due to weather</li><li>Area accommodates multiple-use including OHV</li></ul>

Figure 2-10 (cont'd)

RABBIT VALLEY MOTORIZED AREA (Zone 2)	
Management and Marketing Actions	
<p><b>Management Actions:</b></p> <p><u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore closed roads that have no administrative benefit and are not included in range allotment agreements</li> <li>• Modify roads and trail as needed to mitigate impacts</li> <li>• Rehab non-designated trails and trails that are closed unless there is a potential future use</li> <li>• Develop multiple-use single-track trails in the vicinity of Harley Dome to provide connectivity to the Utah trail system (#9 on Map)</li> <li>• Relocate Trail #2 off the valley floor to the escarpment west of the main entrance (#11 on map)</li> <li>• Connect Trail #4 to Trail #3 along the upper escarpment (#12 on map)</li> <li>• Relocate Trail #3 to the opposite side of the drainage and connect to Trail #4 (#13 on map)</li> <li>• Relocate Trail #4 and Trail #5 to on the valley floor to the dry wash that runs east-west in the same area (#15 on map)</li> <li>• Designate multiple-use single track trail from stock pond west of Trail through Time, head west to State line and south to dirt road (#16 on map).</li> <li>• Close dead-end spurs that lateral south from the frontage road if no purpose is identified (#14 on map)</li> <li>• Close and rehab route north of I-70 near Utah border (#21 on map)</li> <li>• Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harden surfaces at parking areas, trailheads, and campsites only when needed to prevent resource impacts.</li> </ul> <p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct formal campground if BLM successfully acquires the Joufflas in-holding</li> </ul> <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a large area for recreational parking and events (#5 on map)</li> <li>• Consider developing &amp; designating a 2<sup>nd</sup> group-use site at the disturbed alcove location</li> <li>• Develop and implement a site plan for the Rabbit Valley entrance vicinity south of I-70</li> </ul> <p><b>Marketing Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach</li> <li>• Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help maintain resources through partnerships, adoption programs, special events and/or a “friends group.”</li> <li>• Identify partners and develop “Friends” group to assist BLM in outreach and education</li> </ul>

Figure 2-10 (cont'd)

RABBIT VALLEY MOTORIZED AREA (Zone 2)	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
<p><b>Administrative Actions:</b></p> <p><u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All motorized/mechanized use is limited to existing trails and roads.</li> <li>• Designate trail south of and running parallel to I-70 as non-motorized (#22 on map)</li> <li>• Avoid locating trails near known paleo/cultural sites except where specifically intended for interpretation</li> <li>• Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards</li> <li>• Designate and maintain all dirt roads for public access &amp; close non-designated roads.</li> <li>• Equestrian use limited to designated trails only</li> </ul> <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas</li> <li>• Dogs under voice control elsewhere</li> <li>• Coordinate with Moab BLM for continuity</li> </ul> <p><u>Permits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2</li> </ul>	<p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to no more than 7 consecutive nights</li> <li>• Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use</li> <li>• All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings)</li> <li>• No wood cutting</li> <li>• Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts.</li> </ul> <p><u>Shooting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)</li> </ul> <p><u>Hunting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations</li> </ul> <p><u>Visual Resources Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class III - northern portion near I-70 corridor</li> <li>• Not Rated - most of southern portion</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assure objectives are being met and prescribed settings are being maintained</li> <li>• Monitor implemented actions and evaluate</li> <li>• A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.</li> </ul>

Figure 2-11

TRAIL THROUGH TIME/DINOSAUR HILL/FRUITA PALEO AREA (Zone 3)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Roadside Access to Paleontological Resource Appreciation and Education</u> recreation, providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Viewing Dinosaur Fossils</li><li>Viewing Interpretive Exhibits</li></ul>	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enjoying being able to view fossil remains in-place</li><li>Enjoying hands-on environmental learning</li></ul>	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Greater overall awareness and understanding of and sensitivity to paleontology</li><li>Improved knowledge of area paleontology and geology</li></ul> <p><u>Household &amp; Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction</li><li>Greater household awareness of and appreciation of our natural heritage</li><li>Greater academic advancement of children in science studies</li></ul> <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Greater recognition of Fruita as a desired destination for locals and non-locals</li><li>Maintenance of gateway community's' distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or character</li><li>Increased local tourism revenue</li></ul> <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased stewardship and promotion of fossil resources</li><li>Reduced looting and vandalism of prehistoric sites</li></ul>
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>These areas fall within <i>front country</i> and <i>rural</i> settings located directly off of paved roads or accessed off an improved road. Mostly natural setting, with some improvements designed to enhance the visitor's experience.</li></ul>	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FPA: May encounter groups of 7-12 people; 15-29 encounters with other groups/individuals</li><li>TTT and Dinosaur Hill: Group size 13-25; Could encounter up to 30+ groups/individuals per day</li></ul>	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Abundant information/interpretation</li><li>Dogs must be on leash in these locations</li><li>Accessible with normal highway vehicle</li></ul>

Figure 2-11 (cont'd)

TRAIL THROUGH TIME/DINOSAUR HILL/FRUITA PALEO AREA (Zone 3)	
Management and Marketing Actions	
<p><b>Management Actions:</b></p> <p><u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore closed roads that have no administrative benefit and are not included in range allotment agreements.</li> <li>• Modify roads and trails as needed to mitigate impacts.</li> <li>• Rehab non-designated trails and trails that are closed unless there is a potential future use</li> <li>• Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment</li> <li>• Harden surfaces at parking areas, trailheads, and campsites only when needed to prevent resource impacts.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Marketing Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive interpretive plan</li> <li>• Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help maintain resources through partnerships, adoption programs, special events and/or a "friends group."</li> <li>• Work with the City of Fruita regarding tourism/marketing aspects related to paleo resources</li> <li>• Work with Museum of Western Colorado to capitalize on scientific paleo-oriented opportunities</li> </ul>
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
<p><b>Administrative Actions:</b></p> <p><u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All motorized/mechanized use is limited to existing trails and roads.</li> <li>• Designate and maintain all dirt roads for public access and close non-designated roads.</li> <li>• Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards</li> <li>• Equestrian use limited to designated trails only</li> <li>• The Trail Through Time and Dinosaur Hill Trails are designated for hiking only</li> </ul> <p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to no more than 7 consecutive nights</li> <li>• Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use</li> <li>• All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings)</li> <li>• No wood cutting</li> <li>• Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts.</li> <li>• Dinosaur Hill is day-use only</li> <li>• <u>Shooting</u>: No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Hunting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations</li> </ul> <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas</li> <li>• Dogs under voice control elsewhere</li> </ul> <p><u>Permits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2</li> </ul> <p><u>Visual Resources Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class II - Fruita Paleo Area</li> <li>• Class III - Trail Through Time</li> <li>• Not Rated - Dinosaur Hill</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assure objectives are being met and prescribed settings are being maintained</li> <li>• Monitor implemented actions and evaluate</li> <li>• A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.</li> </ul>

Figure 2-12

THE HIGH NORTH (Zone 4)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Little Watchable Wildlife Oasis</u> recreation, providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=complete/total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wildlife Watching</li></ul>	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Savoring the sight and sound of wildlife and the smell of a natural setting</li><li>Quickly accessing natural resource environments</li><li>Feeling good about solitude and being isolated</li><li>Enjoying teaching others about the wildlife of the intermountain arid West</li></ul>	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved opportunity to view wildlife close-up</li><li>Renewed human spirit</li><li>Increased familiarity with/learning about uncommon species</li><li>Increased assurance that special species are being sustained</li><li>Greater sensitivity to/awareness of the natural ecosystem</li></ul> <p><u>Household &amp; Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>Enlarged sense of community dependency on improved stewardship of public wildlife resources</li></ul> <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased desirability as a place to live or retire</li><li>Preserving habitat for special status species that could otherwise become costly to restore</li></ul> <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased stewardship and protection of wildlife</li></ul>
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>From <i>back country</i> to <i>rural</i> Surrounded by major paved roads, but w/ limited access. Several dirt roads throughout the area, but still natural in appearance w/ few improvements.</li></ul>	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Group size 4-6; visitors may have 7-15 encounters per day. Much of this area within a <i>rural</i> physical setting, trails enthusiasts prefer other locations for their endeavors.</li></ul>	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This area can be accessed via normal 2-wheel drive vehicle</li><li>Agency presence will be low</li><li>On site facilities and signage will be very low key</li></ul>

Figure 2-12 (cont'd)

THE HIGH NORTH (Zone 4)	
Management and Marketing Actions	
<b>Management Actions:</b> <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore closed roads that have no administrative benefit and are not included in range allotment agreements.</li> <li>Modify roads and trails as needed to mitigate impacts.</li> <li>Rehab non-designated trails and trails that are closed unless there is a potential future use</li> <li>Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment</li> <li>Harden surfaces at parking areas, trailheads, and campsites only when needed to prevent resource impacts.</li> <li>Close excess dirt roads (#7 on map)</li> </ul>	<b>Marketing Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach</li> <li>Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help maintain resources through partnerships, adoption programs, special events and/or a "friends group."</li> <li>Work with U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Services (F&amp;WS), CDOW &amp; appropriate interest groups to explore opportunities to enhance zone objectives</li> <li>Identify partners and develop "Friends" group to assist BLM in outreach and education</li> </ul>
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
<b>Administrative Actions:</b> <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All motorized/mechanized use is limited to existing trails and roads.</li> <li>Designate and maintain all dirt roads for public access and close non-designated roads.</li> <li>Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards</li> <li>Equestrian use limited to designated trails only</li> <li>Avoid locating trails near known paleo/cultural sites except where specifically intended for interpretation</li> </ul> <u>Camping</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited to no more than 7 consecutive nights</li> <li>Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use</li> <li>All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings)</li> <li>No wood cutting</li> <li>Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts.</li> </ul> <u>Shooting:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)</li> </ul>	<u>Hunting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations</li> </ul> <u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas</li> <li>Dogs under voice control elsewhere</li> </ul> <u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2</li> </ul> <u>Visual Resources Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class III - along southern boundary adjacent to I-70 corridor</li> <li>Not Rated – the remaining portion of this zone</li> </ul> <b>Monitoring Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assure objectives are being met and settings are being maintained</li> <li>Monitor implemented actions and evaluate A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.</li> </ul>

Figure 2-13

MACK RIDGE (Zone 5)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>World Class Single – Track Day-Use Mountain Biking</u> recreation, providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4= total realization)	
Outcomes		
Primary Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Single-track day-use mountain biking</li></ul>	Experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enjoying frequent exercise</li><li>Enjoying strenuous exercise</li><li>Having easier access to a wide range of challenges</li><li>Testing your endurance</li><li>Developing skills, abilities, and self-confidence</li><li>Savoring canyon-country aesthetics</li></ul>	Benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Personal:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved physical fitness</li><li>Better health maintenance</li><li>Restored mind from unwanted stress</li><li>Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>Greater freedom from urban living</li><li>Improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence</li><li>Greater aesthetic appreciation</li></ul></li><li>Household &amp; Community:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction</li></ul></li><li>Economic:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Greater recognition of Fruita as a desired destination for local and non-locals alike</li><li>Maintenance of gateway community's distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or character</li><li>Increased local tourism revenue</li><li>Reduced health maintenance costs</li><li>Increased local job opportunities</li></ul></li><li>Environmental:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased stewardship and protection of Mack Ridge</li></ul></li></ul>
Setting Prescriptions		
Physical <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rural along the I-70 corridor, w/ improved dirt road and parking facilities; middle country on river side. Natural in appearance other than the trails network.</li></ul>	Social <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Group size up to 12</li><li>Expect 15–29 encounters per day after leaving parking facilities</li></ul>	Administrative <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Brochures/maps are available for information</li><li>Regularly monitored by agency representatives</li><li>Rules clearly posted</li><li>Mostly non-motorized and designated as day-use</li></ul>

Figure 2-13 (cont'd)

MACK RIDGE (Zone 5)	
Management and Marketing Actions	
<p><b>Management Actions:</b>  <u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct trail segment "C" to replace end of dirt road</li> <li>• Close and restore all non-designated trails</li> <li>• Modify trails as needed to mitigate impacts</li> <li>• Close and restore road providing same access as trail "G"</li> <li>• Close and restore the end of the road on Steve's Loop</li> <li>• Close and restore dead-end segment heading south from Hawkeye Road</li> <li>• Close and restore segment adjacent to dirt road connecting county road to west end of trail</li> <li>• Close and rehab all non-designated roads not used for admin purposes</li> <li>• Modify roads as needed to mitigate impacts</li> <li>• Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment</li> <li>• Construct ½ mi. new route to designate Route A as open to travel</li> <li>• Construct segment E to connect segment A and Mary's Loop</li> <li>• Construct J between southernmost point of Troy Built and end of Mack Ridge single track</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct trail F to connect Mack Ridge Trail to Mack Ridge trailhead</li> <li>• Consider trail D to connect trail F to Mary's Loop from frontage road and construct only if determined necessary</li> <li>• Construct trail G from Hawkeye frontage road to gated dirt road</li> <li>• Provide restrooms at high-use parking areas</li> </ul> <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gate or erect motorized barriers at 9 locations (Figure 2-1)</li> </ul> <p><b>Marketing Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach</li> <li>• Provide trailhead signs with information regarding challenge level and trail length</li> <li>• Trailhead sign at Horsethief Bench should recommend clockwise travel for mtn. bikes and counterclockwise travel for equestrian use</li> <li>• Work with Fruita on recreation-tourism market niche opportunities</li> </ul>

MACK RIDGE (Zone 5)	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
<p><b>Administrative Actions:</b></p> <p><u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated uses for existing trails</li> <li>• All motorized/mechanized use limited to specifically designated trails &amp; roads only</li> <li>• Limit equestrian use to designated trails only</li> <li>• Restrict motorized use to road portion of Lion's Loop, to and including access out to Overlook Point, county roads, and designated parking areas</li> </ul> <p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No camping within the Mack Ridge Zone</li> </ul> <p><u>Shooting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)</li> </ul> <p><u>Hunting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations</li> </ul>	<p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate Mack Ridge area day-use only</li> <li>• Require on-site horse feed to be certified weed-free</li> <li>• All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas</li> <li>• Dogs under voice control elsewhere</li> </ul> <p><u>Permits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2</li> </ul> <p><u>Visual Resources Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class II – along river corridor</li> <li>• Class III - northeast side of ridge (along frontage road)</li> <li>• Not Rated – areas in between the river and highway influences</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assure objectives are being met and prescribed settings are being maintained</li> <li>• Monitor implemented actions and evaluate</li> <li>• A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.</li> </ul>

Figure 2-14

COLORADO RIVER CORRIDOR (Zone 6)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Overnight flat-water boating for social group and family affiliation in a naturally-appearing red-walled river canyon</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4= total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overnight rafting, canoeing and kayaking</li><li>• Associated camping and wilderness hiking</li></ul>	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Savoring canyon-country aesthetics</li><li>• Enjoying easy access to diverse back country recreation</li><li>• Enjoying the closeness of family and friends</li><li>• Enjoying exploration</li><li>• Escaping everyday responsibilities for a while</li><li>• Enjoying mental and physical rest</li></ul>	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restored mind from unwanted stress</li><li>• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>• Greater environmental awareness and sensitivity</li><li>• Renewed human spirit</li><li>• Greater outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence</li><li>• Greater aesthetic appreciation</li><li>• More well-informed and responsible visitors</li></ul> <p><u>Household &amp; Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction</li><li>• Maintained and enhanced group cohesion and family bonding</li><li>• Improved functioning of individuals in family and community</li></ul> <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintenance of gateway community’s distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or character</li><li>• Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability</li><li>• Increased local tourism revenue</li><li>• Increased work productivity</li></ul> <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased stewardship and protection of River Corridor</li></ul>

Figure 2-14 (cont'd)

COLORADO RIVER CORRIDOR (Zone 6)		
Setting Prescriptions		
<b>Physical</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North of the river is <i>middle country</i> and south of the river is <i>back country</i>. The corridor is natural in appearance, although there is a railroad track within the corridor on the north side of the river. The corridor is presently unimproved w/ potential for low key improvements.</li> </ul>	<b>Social</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group size up to 25</li> <li>Expect 15–29 encounters per day and eventually in the 30+ range during the peak use times</li> <li>There is some evidence of camping along the banks</li> </ul>	<b>Administrative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brochures are available and information is posted at the launch site. Nothing is available beyond the launch site</li> <li>Agency presence and enforcement is randomly present</li> <li>Motorized use allowed in concurrence with State regulations</li> </ul>
Management and Marketing Actions		
<b>Marketing Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach</li> <li>Provide education/information through sources other than on-site posting</li> <li>Explore development of volunteer program with gateway communities/river users to assist with monitoring needs</li> </ul>		
Administrative and Monitoring Actions		
<b>Administrative Actions:</b> <p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No camping on Chow Doggone Island</li> <li>Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use</li> <li>All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings)</li> <li>No wood cutting</li> <li>Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts</li> <li>Continue voluntary campsite reservation system at launch site as long as practical</li> </ul> <p><u>Shooting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)</li> </ul> <p><u>Hunting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations</li> </ul> <p><u>Permits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2</li> </ul>		<p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas</li> <li>Dogs under voice control elsewhere</li> <li>Travel mgmt. signing must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards</li> <li>Group size is limited to 25 people</li> </ul> <p><u>Visual Resources Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class I – south of the river</li> <li>Class II — north of the river</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assure objectives are being met and settings are being maintained</li> <li>Monitor implemented actions and evaluate A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.</li> </ul>

Figure 2-15

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST (Zone 7)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Extreme Wilderness Adventure through Rugged, Deeply-Carved Canyons, Pinnacles, Cliffs, and Slick Rock Creating Limited Access Between Canyons</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4= total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hiking</li><li>• Backpacking</li><li>• Hunting</li><li>• Photography.</li></ul>	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Savoring canyon-country aesthetics</li><li>• Enjoying strenuous exercise</li><li>• Testing your endurance</li><li>• Developing skills, abilities, and self-confidence</li><li>• Feeling good about solitude and being isolated</li><li>• Enjoying primitive and unconfined outdoor recreation environments</li><li>• Enjoying exploration</li></ul>	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved physical fitness</li><li>• Better health maintenance</li><li>• Improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence</li><li>• Greater overall sense of wellness</li><li>• Renewed human spirit</li><li>• Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance</li><li>• Closer relationship with the natural world</li></ul> <p><u>Household &amp; Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction</li></ul> <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased stewardship and protection of Wilderness resources</li><li>• Greater retention of distinctive natural landscape features</li></ul>
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The heart of the area is <i>primitive</i> with a relatively undisturbed landscape</li><li>• Most of the outer edge is <i>back country</i> with a natural appearing landscape and some modifications not readily noticeable</li></ul>	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Group size up to 12</li><li>• Expect 0–6 encounters per day within the <i>primitive</i> setting and as many as 15 encounters within the <i>back country</i> setting</li></ul>	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maps of the Wilderness are available and information is posted outside of the Wilderness at the trailheads, but very little direction is available inside the boundary other than approach trails to allow access into the various canyons.</li><li>• Agency presence within this zone is infrequent.</li></ul>

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST (Zone 7)	
Management and Marketing Actions	
<b>Management Actions:</b> <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify trails as needed to mitigate resource impacts</li> <li>• Construct a trail heading north from the Jones Canyon Trailhead if needed to mitigate impacts</li> </ul>	<b>Marketing Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach</li> <li>• Collaborate with gateway communities, local agencies and interest groups to promote education, appreciation and land stewardship</li> </ul>
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
<b>Administrative Actions:</b> <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motorized/mechanized use prohibited</li> <li>• Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards</li> </ul> <u>Camping</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to no more than 14 consecutive nights</li> <li>• No cutting of dead/live standing vegetation for firewood</li> </ul> <u>Shooting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)</li> </ul> <u>Hunting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunting allowed in conformance with DOW regulations</li> </ul>	<u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group size is limited to 12 people</li> <li>• Collaborate with FAA to develop advisory flight restrictions</li> <li>• All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas</li> <li>• Dogs under voice control elsewhere</li> </ul> <u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2</li> </ul> <u>Visual Resources Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class I</li> </ul> <b>Monitoring Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assure objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained</li> <li>• Monitor implemented actions and evaluate A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.</li> </ul>

Figure 2-16

BLACK RIDGE EAST (Zone 8)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Easy Urban Access to Back Country Settings for Both Day and Overnight Non-Mechanized Wilderness Recreation</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4= total realization)	
Outcomes		
Primary Activities	Experiences	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hiking</li><li>• Horseback Riding</li><li>• Running</li><li>• Backpacking</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Escaping everyday responsibilities for awhile</li><li>• Enjoying frequent exercise</li><li>• Enjoying strenuous exercise</li><li>• Developing skills, abilities, and self-confidence</li><li>• Savoring canyon-country aesthetics</li><li>• Releasing or reducing some built-up mental tensions</li><li>• Discovering joy in interacting with others in outdoor settings</li></ul>	<p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greater freedom from urban living</li><li>• Renewed human spirit</li><li>• Improved physical fitness</li><li>• Better health maintenance</li><li>• Restored mind from unwanted stress</li><li>• Improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence</li><li>• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>• Improved understanding of how involvement with others in natural resource settings builds character</li></ul> <p><u>Household &amp; Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction</li><li>• Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>• Reduced numbers of at-risk youth</li><li>• Reduced juvenile delinquency</li><li>• Improved community integration</li></ul> <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased desirability as a place to live/retire</li><li>• Reduced health maintenance costs</li><li>• Increased property values</li></ul> <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased stewardship and protection of Wilderness Resources</li></ul>

Figure 2-16 (cont'd)

BLACK RIDGE EAST (Zone 8)		
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Backcountry</i> with <i>middle country</i> around the perimeter due to roads outside of the zone boundary. The area is natural in appearance and basically undisturbed other than a few subtle modifications in the form of low key trails.</li></ul>	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Group size up to 12</li><li>• Expect 3–6 encounters per day within the interior and as many as 15 encounters around the perimeter where the designated trails are located</li></ul>	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brochures are available and information is posted outside of the Wilderness at the trailheads, but very little direction is available inside the boundary Agency presence within this zone is infrequent.</li><li>• No mechanized use</li></ul>
Management and Marketing Actions		
<b>Management Actions:</b> <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modify trails as needed to mitigate resource impacts</li><li>• Remove existing fences that no longer serve a purpose</li></ul>	<b>Marketing Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach</li><li>• Collaborate with gateway communities, local agencies and interest groups to promote, appreciation and land stewardship</li></ul>	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions		
<b>Administrative Actions:</b> <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Motorized/mechanized use prohibited</li><li>• No wilderness access routes will be developed from the Kings View Road beyond the Pollock Bench Trailhead</li><li>• Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards</li></ul> <u>Camping</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited to no more than 14 consecutive nights</li><li>• No cutting of dead/live standing vegetation for firewood</li></ul> <u>Shooting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)</li></ul> <u>Hunting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hunting allowed in conformance with DOW regulations</li></ul> <u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2</li></ul>	<u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Group size is limited to 12 people</li><li>• Work with Colorado National Monument to promote seamless management and trail connectivity</li><li>• Collaborate with FAA to develop advisory flight restrictions</li><li>• All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas</li><li>• Dogs under voice control elsewhere</li></ul> <u>Visual Resources Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class I</li><li>• Class II – small section along eastern boundary</li></ul> <b>Monitoring Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assure objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained</li><li>• Monitor implemented actions and evaluate A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management.</li></ul>	

Figure 2-17

URBAN - WILDERNESS INTERFACE (Zone 9)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Day-Use Foot and Horse-Only Recreation in an Urban Back-Yard Setting Abutting the Wilderness</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hiking</li><li>• Horseback Riding</li><li>• Dog Walking</li><li>• Running</li></ul>	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enjoying having access to close-to-home outdoor amenities</li><li>• Escaping everyday responsibilities for awhile</li><li>• Enjoying frequent exercise</li><li>• Seeing visitors get excited about the area</li><li>• Releasing or reducing some built-up mental tensions</li><li>• Enjoying the closeness of family and friends</li></ul>	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved understanding of rural-urban interface</li><li>• Maintained ability to take a quick canyon-country excursion</li><li>• Improved physical fitness</li><li>• Better health maintenance</li><li>• Restored mind from unwanted stress</li><li>• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>• Increased personal enrichment from helping others develop greater awareness, learning, and appreciation the area</li><li>• Greater personal enrichment through involvement with others</li></ul> <p><u>Household &amp; Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction</li><li>• Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>• Enlarged sense of community dependency on public lands</li></ul> <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased desirability as a place to live or retire</li><li>• Positive contributions to local economic stability</li><li>• Reduced health maintenance costs</li><li>• Increased property values</li></ul> <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased stewardship and protection of the urban-Wilderness interface</li><li>• Greater community ownership and stewardship of recreation and natural resources</li><li>• Improved respect for privately owned lands</li></ul>

Figure 2-17 (cont'd)

URBAN - WILDERNESS INTERFACE (Zone 9)		
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Front country</i> along the urban interface to the east, turning to <i>middle country</i> to the west as this zone approaches the Wilderness boundary</li> <li>• The landscape is modified with an access road, trailhead/parking facilities and a number of trails, but naturalness is still not overpowered</li> </ul>	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group size up to 25 people</li> <li>• Could encounter up to 30 individuals/groups per day</li> </ul>	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brochures/maps are available for information and opportunities</li> <li>• Monitored by agency representatives periodically</li> <li>• Rules clearly posted</li> <li>• Easy access with 2-wheel drive, although trails are non-motorized/non-mechanized</li> </ul>
Management and Marketing Actions		
<b>Management Actions:</b> <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify trails as needed to mitigate resource impacts</li> <li>• Construct restrooms at trailheads only when needed</li> <li>• Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment</li> <li>• Provide hiking and equestrian opportunities in the Opal Hill vicinity</li> </ul> <u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove existing fences that no longer serve a purpose</li> <li>• Implement methods to deal with dog waste in high-use areas when the need arises</li> </ul>		<b>Marketing Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the City of Fruita in management of Snooks Bottom, trail connectivity and other gateway community projects.</li> <li>• Work/collaborate closely with the urban interface community in this zone (existing and future expansion).</li> <li>• Work with local schools to foster an appreciation for natural resources</li> <li>• Educational materials should include information regarding private property and designated use for various parking facilities</li> <li>• Work with Colorado National Monument to promote seamless management, consistency and trail connectivity</li> </ul>

Figure 2-17 (cont'd)

URBAN - WILDERNESS INTERFACE (Zone 9)	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
<p><b>Administrative Actions:</b></p> <p><u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motorized/mechanized use prohibited on the Pollock Bench and Devil's Canyon Trail systems</li> <li>No wilderness access routes will be developed from the Kings View Road beyond the Pollock Bench Trailhead</li> <li>Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards</li> </ul> <p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited to no more than 14 consecutive nights</li> <li>The Pollock Canyon, Devils Canyon and Kodel's Canyon trail system, including trailheads, would be designated for day-use only, with fires, camping and nighttime use prohibited from the CCNCA boundary to the Wilderness boundary.</li> </ul> <p><u>Shooting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)</li> </ul> <p><u>Hunting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations</li> </ul>	<p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas</li> <li>Dogs under voice control elsewhere</li> </ul> <p><u>Permits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2</li> </ul> <p><u>Visual Resources Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class II</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assure objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained</li> <li>Monitor implemented actions and evaluate</li> <li>Monitor implemented actions and evaluate. A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management.</li> </ul>

Figure 2-18

RATTLESNAKE—MEE CANYONS ACCESS (Zone 10)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to <u>Hike to a Cluster of Remote Natural Arches and Slick Rock Canyons from a Rugged, Unimproved Road</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Viewing the Arches</li><li>• Day-Use Hiking</li><li>• Limited, Designated Camping Near Vehicles Along Hunter Access Road</li></ul>	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enjoying exploration of the arches and canyons</li><li>• Savoring canyon-country aesthetics</li><li>• Enjoying artistic expression of nature</li><li>• Releasing or reducing some built-up mental tensions</li><li>• Feeling good about solitude and being isolated</li><li>• Enjoying the night on the rim for easier canyon access</li></ul>	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased capacity for artistic expression</li><li>• Renewed human spirit</li><li>• Restored mind from unwanted stress</li><li>• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>• Continued freedom of access to this remote yet undeveloped attraction</li><li>• Greater freedom from urban living</li><li>• Enhanced sense of place ethic</li><li>• Greater overall sense of wellness</li></ul> <p><u>Household &amp; Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction</li><li>• Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle</li><li>• Greater community appreciation of nature art</li></ul> <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintenance of gateway community’s distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or character</li><li>• Greater recognition of gateway communities as a desired destination for local and non-locals alike</li><li>• Increased local tourism revenue</li></ul> <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased stewardship and protection of the Arches and Canyons</li><li>• Maintenance of the distinctive, undeveloped character of rugged, improved access road</li></ul>

Figure 2-18 (cont'd)

RATTLESNAKE—MEE CANYONS ACCESS (Zone 10)		
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Back country</i> in the Mee Canyon portion of this zone</li> <li>• <i>Middle country</i> in the remaining portion of this zone, tending toward <i>front country</i></li> <li>• Although the area includes a number of dirt access roads and trailhead/parking facilities, the landscape still maintains a natural appearance</li> </ul>	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group size up to 25 people outside of the Wilderness boundary and up to 12 people within the Wilderness</li> <li>• Expect to encounter 15 to 29 individuals/groups if visiting the Arches and 30+ encounters outside of the Wilderness</li> </ul>	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brochures/maps are available for information and opportunities</li> <li>• Monitored by agency representatives periodically</li> <li>• Rules clearly posted</li> <li>• Mostly 4-wheel drive access or high clearance</li> <li>• Motorized access restricted during heavy precipitation</li> </ul>
Management and Marketing Actions		
<b>Management Actions:</b> <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify trails as needed to mitigate resource impacts</li> <li>• Construct restrooms at trailheads only when needed</li> <li>• Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment</li> <li>• Close and restore all non-designated roads not used for administrative purposes</li> <li>• Designate spur roads A, B, C, F, G, H &amp; I and contain to prevent lengthening</li> <li>• Close spur roads D &amp; E and restore</li> <li>• Develop an area for horse trailer parking at the end of spur C</li> <li>• Post information regarding road conditions and closures for the Upper and Lower Black Ridge roads</li> <li>• Construct a trail heading north from the Jones Canyon Trailhead if needed to mitigate impacts</li> <li>• Develop an alternate Mee Canyon Trailhead at the intersection of the Upper and Lower Black Ridge access roads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain roads at current level (do not improve access)</li> <li>• Develop a parking area at the sagebrush flat on the Lower Black Ridge Road just before the intersection with the upper road</li> <li>• Improve turnaround at the end of cherry-stemmed road</li> <li>• Move Knowles Canyon Trailhead to spur road F and increase parking capacity</li> <li>• Modify roads as needed to mitigate resource impacts</li> </ul> <u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove existing fences that no longer serve a purpose</li> </ul> <b>Marketing Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education and public outreach</li> <li>• Collaborate with gateway communities, local agencies and interest groups to promote education, appreciation and land stewardship</li> </ul>	

Figure 2-18 (cont'd)

RATTLESNAKE—MEE CANYONS ACCESS (Zone 10)	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
<p><b>Administrative Actions:</b></p> <p><u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motorized/mechanized use prohibited within the Wilderness boundary</li> <li>Motorized/mechanized use is limited to roads and trails so designated</li> <li>Allow motorized vehicle use on Upper Black Ridge Road from Easter Weekend to August 15 only</li> <li>Allow motorized vehicle use on Lower Black Ridge Road from August 15 to February 15 only</li> <li>Designate the acquired "Gore Parcel" as non-motorized/non-mechanized except for administrative use</li> <li>Other than administrative use, the dirt road west of the yellow gate on BS Road is designated non-motorized/non-mechanized</li> <li>Allow for spot gravelling on BS Road as needed for maintenance</li> <li>Allow parking on flat rock surface area south of BS road and southwest of the Knowles Canyon Trailhead</li> <li>Allow parking along the cherry-stemmed road, but only where designated</li> <li>Do not encourage ATV use in this area</li> <li>Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards</li> </ul> <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas</li> <li>Dogs under voice control elsewhere</li> <li>Collaborate with FAA to develop advisory flight restrictions</li> </ul> <p><u>Permits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2</li> </ul>	<p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited to no more than 14 consecutive nights</li> <li>Dispersed camping is limited to designated sites</li> <li>The cherry-stemmed access road, the Arches Trailhead and the vicinity around the Arches trails is all designated as day-use only (no camping)</li> <li>If future demand dictates a campground in this zone, proposed locations include the intersection of the Upper Black Ridge Road and the Mee Canyon access road or the sagebrush flat on the Lower Black Ridge Road</li> <li>No cutting of dead/live standing vegetation for firewood</li> <li>Woodcutting or gathering is limited to areas where chaining has occurred</li> <li>Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use.</li> <li>All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings)</li> </ul> <p><u>Shooting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)</li> </ul> <p><u>Hunting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations</li> </ul> <p><u>Visual Resources Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class I – within the Wilderness boundary</li> <li>Not Rated – area outside of Wilderness</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assure objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained</li> <li>Monitor implemented actions and evaluate</li> <li>A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system would be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.</li> </ul>

#### 2.4.17 Recreation Permit Program

Various recreational uses that occur within the CCNCA require a Special Recreation Permit (SRP). These activities include commercial use, competitive use, vending, organized group activity and event use, and special use areas.

**Commercial Use** involves an individual or organization providing recreational opportunities that are business related or involve financial gain. Scientific, educational and therapeutic institutions, as well as non-profit organizations, may still fall under this category.

**Competitive Use** refers to events/activities that include an element of competition.

**Vending** permits are temporary authorizations to sell goods or services on public lands and are usually in conjunction with a recreation activity.

**Organized Group Activity and Event Use** may require an SRP, even if not commercial or competitive in nature. The BLM Authorizing Officer determines when an SRP is needed based on resource concerns, user conflicts, public health and safety, and other factors. The Authorizing Officer may elect to issue a **Use Authorization**, which includes stipulations for use but is simple to process and does not require a fee.

**Special Area Use** permits may be required for individual (private, non-commercial) use in specially designated areas, including National Conservation Areas. This plan does not initially require Special Area Use permits for any locations within CCNCA, but the option remains available if needed as an adaptive management tool to manage impacts of increasing future use. If there is any question whether or not a proposed activity on public lands falls within one of the above categories, the BLM office should be contacted for additional information.

**The following information is pertinent to the CCNCA SRP program:**

Commercial SRPs are issued based on an annual schedule. Applications must be submitted by a specified date to be considered for issuance during that year's process. Renewals are processed via the same schedule, although some SRPs are multi-year. First-time permits are issued annually on a probationary term

for the first two years. If operation is acceptable and remains in compliance with contract stipulations, an SRP may be reissued for up to ten years at the discretion of the Authorizing Officer. All commercial SRPs are reviewed on an annual basis and require all fees paid and post-use information submitted as part of the review process.

Non-commercial SRPs require a minimum of 180 days for processing in advance of the first intended use date unless a shorter time is authorized by the Field Manager/Authorizing Officer having jurisdiction over the public lands to be used.

Issuance of an SRP and acceptance of the proposed date(s) of use are not guaranteed and should not be assumed, until confirmed by the Authorizing Officer.

Proposed activities must be consistent with the recreation sub-zone and settings in which the activity would take place. Zones 1 – 10 are discussed in this chapter.

Limits may be set for the following as carrying capacities are determined for ROS zones through monitoring of the physical and social settings:

- Group size for commercial operations
- The number of participants allowed for competitive or organized group use events
- The number of active commercial SRPs for various uses
- The number of competitive or organized group event SRPs issued in an ROS zone per year (or other specified timeframe)

Permits will not be granted for air tours over CCNCA.

Permits will not be granted to conduct competitive motorized events within CCNCA.

Restrictions may be stipulated for commercial SRP operation or issuance of non-commercial SRPs, based on high-use periods such as holidays and weekends during active seasonal-use periods, or due to resource concerns related to wildlife, calving season for active grazing allotments (January-February), weather-related concerns, and other situations where resource impacts become a concern.

Temporary closure (either full or partial) of an area may be executed for all use not associated with a permitted event to

promote health and safety concerns, to enhance resource protection and/or due to other factors deemed necessary by the Authorizing Officer.

Special Recreation Permits are issued at the discretion of the Field Manager, who may at any time and without prior notice, choose not to issue permits for certain activities or use areas. Such decisions could be based on a variety of factors such as planning decisions, potential resource impacts, existing outfitters in the same area, overcrowding, past poor performance, and other concerns.

## **Regulations for Specific Locations within CCNCA**

### **Colorado River**

- The moratorium for issuing commercial SRPs for guided river tours will continue until an acceptable carrying capacity is determined.

### **Rabbit Valley**

- Permits will not be granted for competitive motorized events.

### **Mack Ridge**

- No more than 4 full-time commercial bike permits will be allowed at any one time. If the existing number exceeds this when the RMP is validated, vacated permits will not be re-issued until there are less than 4 valid permits in operation.
- Each full-time commercial bike permit is limited to no more than 15 participants (clients + guides) on the trail system at any one time, and no individual groups in excess of 12 participants.
- Commercial permits for equestrian use will not be granted for Mack Ridge.
- Competitive events permitted in Mack Ridge will be limited to walking/running.
- Equestrian group-use events are limited to week-days only.
- Events with more than 50 participants are limited to 1 event per month, plus 2 additional (14 total), with no more than 2 events occurring in a single month.

## General Guidance for Evaluating Group-Use Proposals

The following matrix is a quick initial evaluation that could be used for group-use proposals that are not commercial or competitive in nature. The matrix shows the decision-making process that would be used to determine if a special recreation permit would be required.

**Figure 2-19**

**Group-Use Guideline Example**

Action	Wilderness	River Corridor	North of River	
			Day Use	Overnight
Group Size Where No Authorization Required	12 or Less	25 or Less	25 or less	15 or Less
Group Size Requiring Use Authorization	12 – 25	25 – 35	25 – 35	15 – 45
Group Size Requiring Special Recreation Permitted	More than 25	More Than 35	More Than 35	More Than 45

Permit policy is subject to change on an annual basis, so the direction included in this document is general in nature or discusses aspects of the program that are constant. More detailed information can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, BLM Manual & Handbook H-2930-1 Recreation Permit Administration, and the Special Recreation Permit Handbook for Colorado, which is updated annually. For information specific to CCNCA, or to apply for an SRP, visit or contact the BLM Grand Junction Field Office.

### 2.4.18 Visual Resources

All actions proposed in the CCNCA would be planned and implemented to meet the objectives for Visual Resource Management (VRM) for the VRM classes depicted on Figure 3-16 and described in section 3.18.1, Visual Resource Management System, of Chapter 3.18, Visual Resources.

#### 2.4.19 Fire Management

Current management direction would continue to be implemented based on the Grand Junction Field Office Fire Management Plan (FMP) (BLM 2004). A new FMP is in development and will supercede the existing FMP once finalized.

#### 2.4.20 Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials incidents within the CCNCA would be prevented and risks associated with the hazardous materials would be reduced.

#### 2.4.21 Law Enforcement, Patrols and Public Safety

Law enforcement activities will be conducted as described in the Grand Junction Field Office Law Enforcement Plan (BLM 2004). Information and education regarding BLM resource management and regulations would be distributed by BLM law enforcement rangers and park rangers as part of regular visitor contact activities. Efforts to identify opportunities to enhance education, interpretation and visitor contact occurrences using volunteer organizations and partnerships would be sought out.

#### 2.4.22 Partnerships

Throughout the development of the CCNCA, PRMP the importance of creating partnerships in the management of the CCNCA was recognized. The following groups are potential stakeholders in the CCNCA and would prove to be valuable partners in the future:

##### Colorado National Monument

Concurrent with the development of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan, the National Park Service has been preparing a General Management Plan for the Colorado National Monument (COLM).). The two areas share a common boundary and the agencies have collaborated throughout their respective planning process to advance an integrated management approach. Specific actions toward this end have been identified in this RMP – requesting dogs be leashed on connecting trails, identifying potential locations for trail heads near the City of Fruita and the DS Road/COLM COLM for access to joint trails on Black Ridge.

In addition, the two agencies have identified the following opportunities that provide potential for future collaboration and foster an ecosystem approach to management:

Vegetation restoration and reclamation projects and integrated weed management issues, to ensure COLM concerns are addressed in projects that may have a direct impact on their own initiatives.

- Working together on habitat management in cooperation with F&WS and CDOW.
- Consultation on grazing management decisions, especially in the case of relinquished or canceled allotments bordering the COLM.
- The pursuit of providing cooperative information and education in the vicinity of CCNCA and COLM, especially along the length of connecting trails or other areas where complementary visitor recreation management is possible.
- COLM support of identifying locations for trail heads near the City of Fruita and for access to joint trails on Black Ridge.

The National Park Service, with the assistance of the BLM, developed a detailed list of issues, commonalities, and differences that serve as areas of potential cooperative management between the two agencies (Appendix 6)

#### The City of Fruita

Because of its proximity to the CCNCA, the City of Fruita and the CCNCA have great potential for working together in the future as the CCNCA RMP is implemented. The CCNCA could provide a significant socioeconomic benefit to the community and, through its community planning and development, Fruita is striving to expand its role as the CCNCA Gateway Community. With the continuing goal of consistent management at the urban interface, the City of Fruita and the BLM have identified the following opportunities for future collaboration and partnerships:

- Cooperative management of the 111-acre property along the Colorado River and adjacent to the CCNCA purchased by the City of Fruita in 2004. This urban interface area, known as Snooks Bottom, can be managed as an open space

resource and has potential for trail connections into the CCNCA.

- Work with the City of Fruita and other appropriate agencies, including the Colorado National Monument, to identify access corridors, trailhead opportunities and buffer strips as development gets closer to BLM land.
- Work with the city and county on improvement and maintenance of access roads, including the Kingsview road.
- Identify opportunities for intergovernmental partnerships and develop agreements formalizing relationships among agencies.
- Work with City of Fruita, Colorado State Parks, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Colorado Riverfront Commission and other appropriate groups and agencies on new cooperative river management agreements, including opportunities at the Loma Boat Launch and Colorado River State Park, Horse Thief Ranch to identify future opportunities for river access, parking, and possible trailheads.
- Work with City of Fruita on continuing education, interpretation, protection and management the significant of paleontological resources in the area of the urban interface.

#### Colorado Division of Wildlife

The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), through the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is an official cooperating agency with the BLM in the development of the CCNCA RMP. The PRMP recognizes CDOW's responsibility to manage wildlife on BLM-managed lands. The BLM would consult CDOW in establishing policy for the purposes of protecting public safety, administration, and public use and enjoyment.

Cooperative management of the Loma Boat Launch, bighorn sheep herd management, and implementation of the Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy are examples of current issues being addressed in partnership. Continuing cooperation between the two agencies in all areas of wildlife management, habitat monitoring, and information cross-feed will benefit both agencies into the future.

## Old Spanish Trail

In 2002 Congress authorized the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) as a trail that follows a route of historical significance. The OSNHT was an equestrian pack trail used to transport trade goods and livestock between Santa Fe and Los Angeles between 1829 and 1848. Explorer John C. Fremont cited this trail to be the "longest, crookedest, most arduous pack mule route in the history of America."

A significant stretch of the Northern Route of the OSNHT follows Interstate 70 from the city of Grand Junction, through the CCNCA, eventually joining the North Branch of the Trail near Green River, UT. Joint administration of the trail was granted to the BLM and the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS and the BLM also share responsibility for developing a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for the OSNHT. The Old Spanish Trail Association is partnering with NPS and BLM, providing a ready avenue for public input on trail-related issues and strategies.

A preparation plan for the OSNT is being developed by the NPS in 2004 as the BLM begins public scoping for its portion of the CMP. The CCNCA will have many opportunities to be involved in the planning and subsequent implementation of the OSNT CMP. Some of the opportunities will include:

- Information cross feed with NPS, Old Spanish Trail Association and other participants
- Interpretation and education
- Public involvement
- Possible additional trail segments
- Recreational activities – hiking, horseback riding

## Other Interested Parties

Other stakeholders in the future management of the CCNCA with great potential for involvement in partnerships, a Friends Group, and volunteer corps are:

The Colorado Canyons NCA Advisory Committee  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Colorado State Parks  
Museum of Western Colorado  
Native American communities

Local communities  
Working group members from all four zones  
Environmental organizations  
Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway  
Old Spanish Trail Association  
Interest groups and organizations  
Private landowners  
Pollock Canyon Estates Homeowners Association  
Local users  
Local businesses  
Visitor and Convention Bureau

## RECREATION MAPS

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INSERT 2-1  
MACK RIDGE

INSERT 2-2  
Rabbit Valley

INSERT 2-3  
River Corridor

INSERT 2-4  
Wilderness

INSERT FIGURE 2-5  
Recreation Management Zones

INSERT FIGURE 2-6  
Recreation Management Settings  
PHYSICAL

INSERT FIGURE 2-7  
Recreation Management Settings  
SOCIAL

INSERT FIGURE 2-8  
Recreation Management Settings  
ADMINISTRATIVE